

MAMMALOGY.—*The type locality of Tadarida mexicana Saussure.*¹ SETH B. BENSON, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California. (Communicated by HERBERT FRIEDMANN.)

In checking a list of type localities of Mexican mammals I encountered an apparent error in designating the type locality of the Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida mexicana*). Shamel (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 78 (art. 19): 5. 1931) gave the type locality as Ameca, Jalisco, Mexico, and stated: "The describer selects no specimen as type, but gives as the habitat the plateau of Mexico. Specimens are mentioned from Ameca, Jalisco, and from Cofre de Perote, Vera Cruz. In the United States National Museum collection are three specimens from San Pedro, Jalisco, which is in the immediate vicinity of Ameca, and 23 others from various places in Jalisco. I have therefore chosen Ameca, Jalisco, as the type locality. A specimen labeled, 'Mexico' (Saussure) and marked type of *Mollossus mexicanus* was examined in the Berlin Museum in 1904 by Mr. Miller who thinks it is probably a cotype."

This is not the first recorded designation of Ameca, Jalisco, as the type locality of this bat. The first known to me is by Miller (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 79: 70. 1912), who gave no comment as to the reason. This ascription has been commonly followed in the literature. Also, there is an even earlier designation of the type locality. Elliot (Field Columbian Mus. Publ., zool. ser., 4: 629. 1904) gave the type locality as "Cofre de Perote, state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, 13,000 feet elevation," but gave no explanation.

Saussure's original description (Rev. et Mag. Zool., ser. 2, 12: 283-285. July, 1860) contains the following statement (p. 285) concerning distribution: "Habite le plateau du Mexique et les hautes montagnes. J'en ai tué un individu sur le Coffre de Perote, à 13,000 pieds d'altitude; d'autres individus ont été pris à Ameca, au pied du

Popocatepetl, à un altitude de 8,500 pieds."

There is no mention of Jalisco in this statement, and the only way to infer that Ameca, Jalisco, is the locality intended is to assume that the phrases "au pied du Popocatepetl, à un altitude de 8,500 pieds" refer to a third locality. Actually, the punctuation indicates that only two localities are intended and that the phrases referred to merely describe the location of Ameca more exactly. Ameca really means Amecameca, a town situated on the western base of Popocatepetl at the approximate elevation given by Saussure. Perhaps an error in transcription is involved, easy to make with a word like Amecameca, or perhaps Saussure used the abbreviated form that is sometimes used by the present inhabitants of Amecameca and that appears on some maps. A further indication that Amecameca is the locality in question is furnished in Saussure's description of *Mollossus aztecus* (*op. cit.*) where he gave its distribution (p. 286) as follows: "Habite le plateau du Mexique. Tué à Amecameca, au pied du Popocatepetl."

The localities recorded by Saussure are therefore Cofre de Perote, 13,000 feet, state of Veracruz, and Amecameca, 8,500 feet, state of Mexico. Because Saussure definitely stated that he collected a specimen on the Cofre de Perote himself, giving this locality first, and because Elliot first definitely fixed it as the type locality, Cofre de Perote, 13,000 feet, state of Veracruz, Mexico, should be considered the type locality of *Tadarida mexicana*. If it can be definitely established in the future that the specimen whose measurements are given by Saussure came from "Ameca," then Amecameca, state of Mexico, might be considered as the type locality, but there is no valid reason for ascribing the type locality to the state of Jalisco.

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